

## CHAPTER II

### NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE JEWS

#### (1) NUMBERS

STATISTICAL data concerning the Jews in ancient and medieval times are very scanty. In 70 A.D., at the time of the destruction of the Jewish State, their number is estimated at 4½ millions. It decreased during the following centuries, reaching the lowest point with 1½ million at the end of the fifteenth century, the time of the expulsion and mass-conversion of the Spanish Jews. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the figure remained about stationary. In the eighteenth century it rose gradually to 2½ millions, increased rapidly in the nineteenth to 10½ millions, and now (Nov. 1933) has reached nearly 16 millions, which makes 0·8 per cent of the world's population, estimated at 2,000,000,000. Omitting India, the Far East, and the interior of Africa, where there are practically no Jews, and considering only the parts of the world which are predominantly European in race and culture, the Jews form 1·6 per cent of their total population of 1,000,000,000. This percentage is higher than in 1800, when 2½ million Jews formed 0·4 per cent of the world population,

and 0\*8 per cent of the 600,000,000 of white race. On the other hand, it is considerably lower than it was at the census undertaken by the Emperor Augustus (14 A.D.), when the Roman Empire, which at that time comprised practically the entire civilized world of the white race, had a population of 54 millions, of which 4½ million Jews formed **8-3** per cent; *i.e.* among the white races the Jews were then one in twelve, and are now only one in sixty-three.